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The Editor will gratefully receive contributions, in English or Tamil, of articles on matters of *National War Front interest*, and publish them, if suitable, as signed articles, in the Bulletin. The articles should be short and reach the Editor a week in advance.

'POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION'

—*See Page 22.*

Indian Troops of 14th Army Liberate TIDDIM, in the KABAW Valley, important Japanese Supply Base inside BURMA.

LECTURE CCXX.

THE ASSAULT ON GERMANY.

DECISIVE PHASE.

(*By Wickham Steed*).

Issues more complex than any military problem confront the Western Allies as they build up their strength for a decisive attack upon Germany. The military problem is to defeat the German army on German soil so thoroughly as to destroy its power to continue the war. The political, and to some extent the moral, problem is completely to dispel the legend of German invincibility, and to eradicate the belief that in another war German arms would be victorious. Beyond this problem lies the question how the German people, totally demoralised by 11 years of Nazi propaganda, and wholly ignorant of its true situation, can be disciplined, instructed and reformed so that it may one day be fit to hold its place in the European community of nations.

Prominent British Ministers have recently divulged authentic information that the German General Staff, conscious that this war is lost, are already making preparations for the next war. The German object is to preserve the officers corps and the Prusso-German military caste as a nucleus around which a new and more formidable military machine can be constructed as was done after 1918.

Alongside their main military task, Allied Governments have, therefore, to thwart the plans of the German General Staff, and not to limit the Allied purpose to the overthrow of Nazi tyranny and the elimination of Nazism. German militarism is as incompatible with the peace of the world as the Nazi system itself.

Allied decisions on this point are already taken. They may have to be enforced in the near future. Opinions differ whether the war in Europe will end this year or be prolonged into 1945. Field-Marshal Montgomery has suggested the earlier and Mr. Winston Churchill the later date. Much may depend on the real strength of the German forces now defending the Siegfried Line and the Rhine barrier.

Allied military experts doubt whether the German forces in the West number even 500,000 men. Neither from the Eastern nor from the Italian fronts can large reinforcements be drawn. The Western Allies can throw at least 2,000,000 highly trained and well-equipped men into their impending offensive. They possess superiority, if not absolute supremacy, in the air. The Battle of Normandy showed what this may mean to enemy communications and supplies. Approximate numerical equality of land armies could not then save the Germans from disaster.

The view held in some Allied quarters that the German line in the West is little more than a stiff crust with nothing behind it may, therefore, prove to be justified. Once cracked or broken by Allied attack this crust might leave the interior of Germany open to swift invasion. Elements of weakness appear to lie behind the crust. The Supreme Allied Commanders called upon 12,000,000 foreign workers in Germany to act against their enslavers and use the means of action provided for them. So circumspect a commander as General Eisenhower would hardly have taken this step prematurely. The conclusion seems warranted that he expects foreign workers to disorganise the German rear, while Allied armies seek to break Germany's outer defences.

If this conclusion is sound, the coming weeks may decide the duration of war in Europe. The German General Staff is certainly aware of the full gravity of the position. It may, therefore, prefer a speedy surrender to the prolongation of an armed struggle, which could only bring hopeless devastation upon German towns and cities. Underground guerrilla warfare, such as Himmler and the Gestapo are reported to be organising, might cause temporary loss and embarrassment to the Allied Armies without gaining the enemy any other advantage than a shorter or longer respite from capture and punishment of the Nazi leaders. As Mr. Churchill suggested, they would be treated as rebels and outlaws after the surrender of the German army had closed the war in Europe.

These are the prospects and problems that confront the Western Allies on the eve of decisive operations against Germany. They form the back-ground of coming military events.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS.

11—10—44 (Wednesday).	Red Army takes *CLUJ* the Capital of Transylvania and *SEGED* in Southern Hungary.
	Americans raid *FORMOSA* and *PESCADORES* again.
12—10—44 (Thursday).	Americans raid *FORMOSA* and *PESCADORES*. (396 Jap aircraft and 63 Jap ships are destroyed on the 11th and 12th October).
	Russians begin their attack on *E. PRUSSIA*.
13—10—44 (Friday).	Americans enter *AACHEN* in Germany.
	Americans raid *LUZON* (Philippines).
	Russians capture *RIGA*, (the Capital of Latvia).
14—10—44 (Saturday).	British liberate *ATHENS* (the Capital of Greece).

(B) NEWS IN BRIEF.

General.—October war is a matter of weather. Hitler hopes that the approaching winter will bring him a temporary relief, but the Allies are determined to close the ring round him during winter. Two vast arcs are extending on either side of him; one on the East, from the Baltic to the Adriatic, along the border of E. PRUSSIA and through POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY and YUGOSLAVIA; and the other, on the West, from the North Sea to the Adriatic, through HOLLAND, BELGIUM, FRANCE and ITALY.

On the Western Front.—The chief battle centres are the Scheldt Estuary, the Ruhr and the Vosges.

(1) *On the Coast*, the dyke at WESTKAPELLE in the WALCHEREN Island has been breached again by air-attack. This is the fourth attack of the kind on WALCHEREN. The first raid was also on the Westkapelle dyke; the present attack has widened the earlier breach. The second and third raids were carried out on two other dykes, on either side of the WALCHEREN port of FLUSHING.

WOINSDRECHT, the key to the WALCHEREN Peninsula has been captured.

A new Allied Expedition has landed at TERNEUZEN.

Canadian troops are battling their way into ZEELAND, to clear the approaches to ANTWERP.

(2) *In the Scheldt Estuary*, all German pockets south of the Estuary have been closed. Between the Estuary and the Leopold Canal, German resistance is desperate. Across the Canal, a new landing has been made near WATERVLIET and has been linked up with the earlier landing. The area near BRESKENS, the Dutch port on the Scheldt Estuary has been captured. OVERLOON and VENRAIJ have been occupied.

(3) *In the Arnhem area*, F.-M. Montgomery is enlarging the Allied salient. KLEVE and EMMERICH, near NIJMEGEN, which served as German advance bases have been completely devastated.

(4) *Inside Aachen*, after the refusal of the commander of the garrison to surrender, a few hundred soldiers and many civilians preferred to walk into the Allied camp seeking protection. The escape gap round AACHEN has been completely closed and bitter street to street fighting continues. Von Rundstedt, who has staged a come-back, is rushing troops from the interior and from the ARNHEM area. (AACHEN has since fallen.—*Ed.*)

RICHTERICH and KOHLSCHEID near AACHEN have been captured.

(5) *In the Lorraine Area*, Gen. Patton's U. S. Third Army is fighting fierce battles between METZ and NANCY. FORT DRIANT, one of the strongholds near METZ was taken by the Germans during the week.

(6) *In the Vosges*, the U. S. 7th Army is fighting at the foot-hills and has taken SAPOIS, CORNIMONT, GLONVILLE and FONTENOY.

(7) *In the Lethillot area*, ORIONT, GEDAMONT, PLANOIS and TOUGEMONT have been liberated.

(8) *Inside Germany*, there have been heavy air raids on DUISBURG and the Sorpe Dam.

On the Eastern Front battles are raging from the Arctic to the Adriatic.

(1) *In the Arctic area*, the German armies have been withdrawn to the Norwegian border.

(2) *In the Baltic area*, RIGA the capital of LATVIA—the last Baltic capital—and SHOLK close to it have been taken. TILSIT, near MEMEL is being attacked. The Baltic Islands of WILSENDILAID and ABRUKA have been occupied. Landings have been made in the area of PETSAMO in FINLAND. According to the Russo-Finnish agreement, the Russians have also taken over LIINAPA MARIE, the centre of the Finnish nickel-mines. Finnish troops have captured Rovaniemi in Lapland.

(3) *On the E-Prussian border*, according to German reports, the Russians have launched a powerful attack on either side of VILKOWISKEN, east of INSTERBERG, on a 25 mile front. East of VIRBALIS, on this frontier and near NEWSTADT, the first Prussian lines have also been invaded.

(4) *In Transylvania*, CLUJ, the capital, ORDEA-MARE, and BISTRITA have fallen.

(5) *Inside Hungary*, street fighting is proceeding in BUDAPEST, the capital, between the Hungarians who favour an armistice, and the Fascist group. Admiral Horthy the Regent of HUNGARY has been dismissed. The Allies have captured SZAGED, on the Theiss River, SUBOTICA, HORGOS, KISUJSZALLAS and BISTRITA.

(6) *In Yugoslavia*, KNJAZEVAC, ADA, NADEREVO, RIPANI, DELVINO, KRUSEVAC, BELI POTOK and VRANJE have been taken.

(7) *In Albania*, SARANDE has been captured.

Greece.—British troops have occupied ATHENS, the capital and PIRAEUS, its harbour The Germans are evacuating SALONIKA. The Islands of CORFU and NAXOS have surrendered.

Italy.—The weather having cleared, the Allied advance to BOLOGNA has been resumed. On the Western side, the U. S. 5th Army is fighting down the hill-roads leading to BOLOGNA. On the Adriatic side, the British 8th Army has burst across the Fumicino river and is closing in on CESENA on the way to BOLOGNA. The most important place captured during the week is LIVERGNANO astride the FLORENCE—BOLOGNA Road. Other places reported captured are GESSO, MONTE CAMPO, MRCATO SARACENO, MONTE DI RULLATO, MONTE BOMBIANA, MONTE CHIECO and GAMBETTOLA.

Far East.—FORMOSA has been heavily raided from the air thrice. The first raid was carried out with 1,000 planes and lasted 7 hours. In the second attack, which was on FORMOSA and the PESCADORES (FISHERS' ISLANDS—21 Islands in the Formosa Channel), 63 Japanese ships were sank or damaged, and 396 aircraft were destroyed. Off RYUKYU Islands, south of the Japanese homeland, 77 enemy ships and 119 aircraft were destroyed.

Super-Fortresses also attacked the towns of OKAYAMA, HEITO and EINASHO on the Island of FORMOSA.

The Americans have landed on BARIAKASERU ISLET (PALAUS) and ULITHI ATOLL (West CAROLINES).

China.—The Japanese have captured KWEIPING but their attempts to reach KUEILIN the capital of the KUANGA province have not succeeded.

Burma.—TIDDIM has fallen.

ALLIED AIR-RAIDS.

8—10—44. (Sunday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY :—

Troops and gun positions in the battle areas in FRANCE.

Locomotives, rolling-stock, and air-fields in Western GERMANY.

Railway bridges at BADMUSTER, EUSKIRCHEN and AHRWEILER (Germany).

The railway junction at NOHFELDEN.

Enemy strong points at METZ, BAAL and JULICH.

Shipping in the North ADRIATIC and the Gulf of GENOA.

Military objectives in ALBANIA.

FAR EAST.

JAMBOANGA (Philippines).

Enemy positions in North CELEBES, HALMAHERA and AMBOINA.

Jap installations on MARCUS Islands.

BURMA.

Railway bridge at DABA.

9—10—44 (Monday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY :—

Military installations in the SCHWEINFURT, COBLENZ and MAINZ regions in GERMANY.

Enemy communications, strong points and air-fields in Western GERMANY.

Bridges and supply dumps immediately behind the battle areas.

Support to the fighting troops on the ground both in FRANCE and in ITALY.

Shipping in the ADRIATIC.

Targets along the DALMATIAN coast.

The Ports of RIGA and LIBAU (Latvia).

German transports in the Gulf of RIGA.

NIGHT :—

The iron and steel industry at BOCHUM (Ruhr).

FAR EAST.

Jap strong points and installations on RYUKYU (Pacific) (12 Jap ships sunk; 26 probably sunk; 89 Jap planes destroyed).

BURMA.

Communications and other targets in the TIDDIM area.

A bridge near LAHIO.

The suspension bridge at NALONG.

10—10—44 (Tuesday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY :—

A bridge at EUSKIRCHEN.

Military targets in South-west GERMANY.

German defences inside AACHEN.

German strong points around the beach-head in the SCHELDT Estuary area.

Shipping in the ADRIATIC.

Communications in North ITALY.

NIGHT:—

Rail-yards at VERONA.

FAR EAST.

Islands in RYUKYU group.

Oil-installations at BALIK PAPAN.

Shipping off the PHILIPPINES.

BURMA.

Concentrations in villages south of BUTHIDAUNG.

Jap positions in the TIDDIM and CHINDWIN area.
Trains and Locomotives at the Junction of the MANDALAY-NAMTU Lines.

11—10—44 (Wednesday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—
Shipping off NORWAY.
Industrial objectives in the areas of COLOGNE and COBLENZ (Rhineland).
German positions in the SCHELDT pocket (Holland) and in the AACHEN area (Germany).
Fortified positions at OOSTBURG, SLUIS and SCHOONDIJKE.
Gun emplacements on the Island of WALCHEREN and FLUSHING (Holland).
Industrial targets in VIENNA area (Austria).
Air-fields in AUSTRIA, HUNGARY and CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
Supply centres in North ITALY.
Shipping in the ADRIATIC.
Rail-yards in Northern ITALY.
Bridges and supply centres in YUGOSLAVIA.

NIGHT:—
Many places in western GERMANY including BERLIN.
Gun emplacements near BRESKENS (Holland).

FAR EAST.

Jap positions on FORMOSA.
Jap shipping around FORMOSA.
Oil-centre at BALIK PAPAN.

BURMA.

Enemy supply dumps and enemy-occupied villages in the CHINDWIN area.
Railway communications in the MOULMEIN area.
Shipping in the Gulf of MARTABAN.

12—10—44 (Thursday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—
An aircraft factory at BREMEN.
Other targets in North-west GERMANY.
Troops and strong points at OOSTBURG SLUIS and SCHOONDIJKE.
Gun emplacements at FORT FREDERICK HENDRIK.
Support to ground troops near ARNHEM and NIJMEGEN.
Communications in AACHEN Sector.
Transportation targets in HOLLAND.
German barges in the AEGEAN.
Air-fields in HUNGARY.
Rail lines, river shipping and road targets in AUSTRIA.
Communications, troop concentrations, ammunition dumps and supply centres in the BOLOGNA area.
Strategic targets in SILESIA and VIENNA area (Austria).

NIGHT:—
Targets in Western GERMANY including those at HAMBURG.

FAR EAST.

Jap targets in FORMOSA and PESCADORES (396 Jap aircraft and 63 ships destroyed on the 11th and 12th October).

BURMA.

Communications and bridges in the ARAKAN and Central BURMA.

13—10—44. (Friday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—
The Inland port and industries at DUISBERG (Germany).
Bridges at MAYEN and EUSKIRCHEN.
Rail communications in Western GERMANY.
Troops and strong points in the AACHEN area.
German shipping in the BALTIC Sea.
Synthetic oil-refinery in GERMANY.
Marshalling-yards in North ITALY, AUSTRIA and HUNGARY.
Communication targets in the BOLOGNA area.
Enemy positions in the fighting areas in ITALY.
Harbour installations in YUGOSLAVIA.

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy waters.
Air-fields in HOLLAND.

FAR EAST.

Jap targets on LUZON (Philippines).
A vital Jap base at OKAYAMA (Formosa).
Jap installations at AMBOINA and CERAM (S.W. Pacific).
Jap targets near WEWAK (N. Guinea) and on BISMARCK, BOUGAINVILLE and SHORTLAND Islands.

BURMA.

Communications and other military targets in ARAKAN and Central BURMA.

ENEMY AIR-RAIDS.

9—10—44. (Monday).
Places in Southern ENGLAND including the LONDON area.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

10—10—44. (Tuesday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

11—10—44. (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

Places in Southern ENGLAND including the LONDON area.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

12—10—44. (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

Places in South-eastern ENGLAND including the LONDON area.

RUSSIA.

Russian positions on the East PRUSSIAN border.

FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

13—10—44. (Friday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No information.

14—10—44. (Saturday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

SIDE LIGHTS.

SUPPLY AND SPEED. The momentum of the Allied advance on the Western Front, which began on 'D'-Day and liberated FRANCE, BELGIUM and LUXEMBOURG has reached its limit, followed by a necessary pause for the second wind, for the establishment of communications over distances and for massing new strength for the impending grand assault on GERMANY itself. Till now supplies and reinforcements had been coming from the far-away beaches of NORMANDY, from ports like CHERBOURG damaged by the enemy and hastily restored. They had involved a long haul to battle-centres like NIJMEGEN, AACHEN and METZ. The way is now being prepared to secure the use of larger and nearer ports such as ANTWERP. For the Allies, the momentum of advance is mainly governed by the amount of supplies delivered. The Germans know this. They know also that winter will bring them no relief.

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SLOGGING MATCHES. They know this for another reason too. The Allied advance, though slow has never ceased; nor has the attack diminished in intensity. Day and night, heavy slogging battles are being fought on the banks of the Scheldt, in the fortress of AACHEN at the foot of the Vosges. Ground, though to a limited extent, has been gained at every point. The intensity of the fighting is best proved by the fate that has overtaken AACHEN, which is now a city in flames, with savage battles raging in every street. If the civilians do not evacuate the fortress in numbers, it is not because of any hope left–three-fourths of the city has already fallen–not exactly because of any lingering morale, but because flight from the city means falling into the hands of the Gestapo inside GERMANY. The civilians do not fly because they believe and know that there is more mercy in Allied occupation than can be expected from the Gestapo police.

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THREE-WAY ATTACK. They have also another reason. No longer one-way or two-way, the Allied air attack has now become a three-way-affair-from west, east and south. No part of GERMANY is now safe. Where can the civilians go to now to seek safety from the aerial bombardment, which, in preparation for the coming grand assault, has increased in intensity to an unknown extent? Witness, the 5,000-plane—attack with 3,000 bombers and 2,000 fighters—on Oct. 7, and the 7,000-plane attack on DUISBURG and the Sorpe Dam, on Oct. 15!

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THE BALKANS. By contrast, in the East events are moving fast. The Russian Front now extends from MURMANSK in the far-away Arctic to the Balkans, where the Red-Army has penetrated into YUGOSLAVIA, and linked up with Rumanian and Bulgarian forces. New waves of advance have carried it into HUNGARY and TRANSYLVANIA. From S. POLAND, SLOVAKIA has been reached. The Carpathian passes in Central EUROPE have been forced. Instead of a short defence line which the Germans hoped for, their eastern front has now been lengthened by the necessity for new defences to be thrown up at the Hungarian and Transylvanian borders.

THE FALL OF RIGA. At the northern end of the Russian Line, RIGA the capital of LATVIA has fallen. With the loss of this great port, the Germans have lost their control of the Western Baltic. In pre-war days, RIGA and LENINGRAD were the chief export ports for the produce of the Volga and Dnieper basins.

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LIBERATION OF GREECE. The Nazis lament that they are being forced out of GREECE and the Greek Isles by Bulgarian and Rumanian 'treachery'. This is a half-truth. The desertion of Hitler's Balkan satellites under the Allied whip is closing the doors to a German retreat from GREECE. The Germans are fleeing from GREECE before it is too late. They are showing hardly any fight. The whole of the PELOPONNESE has been occupied in a matter of days. ATHENS, the capital of GREECE has been liberated, and what the Greeks most appreciate, is that food is coming to them.

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'MERCY EXPEDITION' Yes, 'Mercy Ships' are bringing relief to the Greeks, whose contribution to Victory in fighting and suffering has been wonderful. Months ago, the Allies foresaw that large supplies would be needed by famishing GREECE as soon as the German stranglehold had slackened, and a 'Mercy Expedition' of relief ships and planes was held in readiness to carry the vital needs to GREECE as soon as ports and air-fields were free. Now medicines, clothes and foods are pouring in.

Genl. Sir Maitland Wilson, supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean has published the following proclamation in GREECE :—

"The final Victory is now assured. The aggressors have been defeated. We come now to sweep away the invader, and by the use of your ports and air-fields to harass his retreat."

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HUNGARY. In the satellite State of HUNGARY an exciting little drama was enacted during the week. A few days ago the news was flashed that HUNGARY was seeking an armistice, and had contacted the Allies with this purpose. It has since been revealed that Admiral Horthy, the Regent of HUNGARY, seeing the hopelessness of the Axis cause trimmed his sails, and sought to enter the Allied camp. But the attempt proved abortive. Hungarian Fascists in the grip of the Nazis have now seized BUDAPEST, the capital and overthrown Horthy. They have declared Admiral Horthy's endeavours to save HUNGARY to be 'treachery' and 'an attempt to deliver HUNGARY to Bolshevism', and have called upon the soldiers to continue to fight. But the fall of HUNGARY under the Russian attack is imminent. Riots have broken out in BUDAPEST between the 'Armistice' Party and the Fascists. With its collapse, the whole of the Danube and the road to VIENNA will lie open to the conqueror.

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THE ARMED GRAND ALLIANCE. Churchill's sudden arrival at MOSCOW has naturally caused surprise and given rise to speculation. There is no doubt that the most important conclusions of the recent Churchill-Roosevelt Quebec Conference were discussed at MOSCOW with Stalin. It is satisfactory to note that Stalin is reported to have expressed his approval of the

decisions reached at DUMBARTON OAKS for the security of the world's peace. The one distinguishing feature of the organisation recommended by the DUMBARTON OAKS Conference, is that it has provided the much needed 'teeth' for the old League of Nations, or as Churchill has put it, it has 'armed,' the Grand Alliance of the United Nations. The old League was also a Council of Nations but its 'sanctions' were slow and ineffective. Its tendency was to shut the stable door after the horse had been stolen, and to step in after passions had become excited and the conflagration had spread too far and become too general to be controlled by a League decision. The advantage of the new organisation lies in the creation of a Military Staff Committee, which will always have a force to mobilise and strike quickly with, as soon as the Council of Eleven has made up its mind that armed intervention has become necessary.

Another important feature of the new project is to separate problems of Security from other international problems, for which an independent Social and Economic Council has been set up, though it is upon the justice of the findings of this Council that the necessity of the Security Council to intervene at all with armed action in international affairs will depend.

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POLAND. The presence of the President, Premier and Foreign Minister of POLAND at the MOSCOW talks raises the hope of a satisfactory settlement of the Russo-Polish frontier dispute. The Russian attitude too is reported to have recently changed in favour of POLAND. We have no doubt that the influence of the British Prime Minister who is in MOSCOW now will be profound and effective. From across the Atlantic, President Roosevelt has communicated his mind in the following words :—

'The American people are not fighting in this war just to defeat Germany. We are fighting to re-establish justice in this world. There are no people who have earned freedom more fully than the Poles. The world owes them much, and we American people are determined to discharge that debt. We will not be satisfied unless we meet the just claims of the Polish people'.

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THE BULGARIAN ARMISTICE has been signed by RUSSIA, BRITAIN and AMERICA and accepted by BULGARIA. Under its terms Bulgarian troops will be withdrawn from GREECE, but will remain in YUGOSLAVIA, in agreement with Marshal Tito, to drive the Germans out!

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THE TRAGEDY OF NAZI OPPRESSION. The results of Nazi tyranny in occupied and recently liberated countries have been no less than famine and misery. In occupied HOLLAND, the food position has become critical. It is reported that within 3 or 4 days (the report is dated Oct. 12) the food supply will be exhausted. To make matters worse, the Germans have stopped all food transport, and are requisitioning any remaining food stocks for themselves. The case of FRANCE, though liberated, is equally lamentable. In the words of General De Gaulle, French ports, except Bordeaux, are out of commission, transport and railways practically paralysed, factories without coal or electricity, mines in a dreadful state, agricultural equipment worn out, stocks of fuel and raw material completely exhausted.

But FRANCE is not dejected. What rolling stock, ships and stores she has, she has placed at the disposal of the Allies. FRANCE is determined, as ever, to beat the enemy. She knows that more bloody exertion is necessary to consummate this end. She is determined to recover INDO-CHINA. Since PEARL HARBOUR, she too has been at war with JAPAN. She has mobilised 40 per cent of the Frenchmen in her empire for an Expeditionary Force to fight JAPAN.

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THE SAD CASE OF FINLAND. FINLAND too has suffered badly at the hands of the Germans. Though she has been GERMANY's friend and ally for 3 years, the Germans, now forced to retreat from there, have burnt her towns and villages. Of one such village–HYRYNSALMI, it is reported, that nothing is left now except the church. Its inhabitants have disappeared, without home, or belongings or livelihood. 'For 50 miles along the road', says one of its inhabitants who had fled, 'I found only the charred remains of Finnish farms and homesteads, with brick chimneys still standing "like monuments to Nazi culture."'

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INSIDE GERMANY. (1) 45,000 workers are fortifying Hitler's retreat at BERCHTESGADEN, and scooping out caves and labyrinths from which the Nazi Minotaur is expected to fight for years.

(2) Dr. Schacht, GERMANY's Finance Miracle-worker is in a concentration camp.

(3) F. M. Rommel is dead.

(4) Marshal Goering is busy organising counter-measures to be carried out against the Allies, when GERMANY has been defeated and the Allies take up the trial of war criminals. Goering's diabolical device is to hold important people like King Leopold of BELGIUM, King Christian of DENMARK and Gen. Bor of POLAND as hostages, to take them to JAPAN, and to exchange them later for prominent Nazis captured by the Allies.

(5) Bormann, head of the Nazi Central Office, is advertising the unselfishness and self-sacrifice of the Nazi officials who, well-paid, and holding fat jobs, have been fleecing the people and are strutting about with medals and decorations which they never earned at the front. Bormann has now given the assurance that there will be no more promotions for these official harpies, no new appointments and no new decorations.

(6) Goebbels as usual is busy lying, of which we give two instances, the latest:—

(*a*) We (Germans) never gave false slogans to any nation; our struggle has been honest from the very outset, since we did not cross our own frontiers to subjugate other peoples in blind conquest and madness, but were forced to leave our own frontiers behind us. We came as heralds of a new order and a new justice. We never preached slogans preaching hatred like our enemies. No German dreamt of annihilating the British or punishing the French, or enslaving the Dutch, or any other people, or feeding on other people's blood and sweat.

(Never were more lies compressed in so masterly a fashion into one short paragraph).

(*b*) 'The British and the Americans have been sadly disappointed in their hope of breaking German morale by means of their advance in FRANCE.'

(This is from a talk to the workers in a town on the Western Front. May we ask what *need* there was for this pep talk if the morale of these workers had not cracked).

NAZI DESERTIONS in the German Legation at STOCKHOLM are multiplying. Of them the *Daily Telegraph* reports the following cases :—(1) Dr. Paul Grassmann, Press Attache, (2) Capt. Paul Von Wahlert, Naval Attache and (3) Dr. Heinrich Reinsberg, Merchant Marine Attache.

Minister Hans Thaman of the Legation is said to be 'in a delicate position'; Faulein Erika Wendt, Legation Secretary has 'vanished'; Hans Schneffer of the German Consular Staff has 'abandoned' his post; and Dr. Leithoff of the German Chamber of Commerce has applied to the Swedish authorities for a 'fugitive transport'.

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FAR EAST. (1) Great things are happening in the FAR EAST. The big air-raids over FORMOSA remind us of the mass raids in Europe which preceded the opening of the Second Front.

(2) Air-Chief-Marshall Sir Trafford Leigh Malory, Air C.- in-C. Western Front has been transferred to the S. E. Asia Air Command. On the Normandy beaches, at FALAISE, at St. Lo and on the Seine he smashed the German armies and turned their retreat into a rout.

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PORTUGUESE TIMOR. Afraid of Portuguese readiness to declare war on her, JAPAN has entered into an agreement with PORTUGAL to evacuate Portuguese TIMOR. The event is of considerable significance. In the days of her success, when she hoped to invade AUSTRALIA using TIMOR as a spring-board, she had no scruples about taking over Portuguese TIMOR though it belonged to a neutral power. Driven far from AUSTRALIA, and anxious for her own safety, she has now changed her mind.

ALLIED PROGRESS IN HOLLAND

TWO BLOWS FROM THE AIR

(*From the Times.*)

The two blows behind the German lines, news of which was published simultaneously, graphically illustrate the tactical self-sufficiency of some of the contributions that air-power can sometimes make to the strategic plan of combined operations.

The earlier of the two had been delivered as long ago as September 23, when heavy bombers dropped their 12,000-pound missiles on the Dortmund Canal. They took advantage of the curious structure of some of the inland waterways of the Continent, which are built up so high over the surrounding plain that occasionally a traveller by road may look up to see barges floating above the bridge over his head. By choosing their point of attack, therefore, bombers were able to smash the canal banks, where the whole of the water in the canal would rapidly drain away into the fields below and, in fact, several miles of its course are now dry. The effect upon the German military supply service can scarcely be overestimated; for the canal is the principal line of communication by which the products of the Ruhr are conveyed to the river Ems, whence they travel eastward by other canals, leaving it lower down for Magdeburg and Bremen, or follow it to its mouth where coastwise traffic begins. The consequences of this exploit by Bomber Command should be particularly profitable for our Allies on the Eastern Front.

The other air operation is comparatively of local significance, but is calculated to yield its results in a more immediate and more visible form. The island of Walcheren consists mainly of land reclaimed from the sea, and by breaking the dykes that guard it on the west, bombers have allowed the waters to reclaim their dominion. The stroke has been timed to coincide with the equinoctial spring tides, when the consequent inundations will be the deepest and most extensive. Walcheren is of immense strategic importance the Germans, because from its shores they command the northern side of the Channel leading up to Antwerp, and so deny to the Allies the use of an almost undamaged port which, for capacity and accessibility to the front combined, would probably exceed in value all those on which the coming assault on the Rhine defences depends. It must not be supposed that the floods have obliterated Walcheren from the strategic map. It is on the side remote from the Antwerp Channel that the ground is lowest, and this may be assumed to have been submerged. Along the Channel itself, high dunes about the harbour of Flushing stand well over the spring highwater and at least a strip of land, perhaps two miles wide, must remain to the enemy. His heavy guns on the western side of the Island pointing out to the sea must, however, be under water, and it may be expected that his plans for defending what has suddenly become a very much smaller and more cramped position have been thrown thoroughly out of gear.

In celebrating this important local victory, it should not be forgotten what it directly means for the people of Walcheren, who have seen the disappearance of fields by which they live, and which the skill and industry of their fathers won by peaceful conquest from the sea. It is to be hoped that the warning broadcast to them beforehand, in necessarily general terms, has prevented heavy loss of civilian life. But the loss of their homes is one more sacrifice offered by these unflinching people, who have made so many in the cause of their country's liberation. All their allies will echo the words of sympathy and admiration for their fortitude which were addressed to them in a broadcast by their own Prime Minister recently.

TWILIGHT OVER HITLER.

(By W. N. Ewer, the "Daily Herald" Diplomatic Correspondent).

What has become of Hitler? Never was Nazi Germany in such need of leadership. But the *Fuehrer* remains invisible and inaudible.

Himmler and Goebbels organise defences and mobilisation, issue appeals to patriotism and threats to slackers. But Hitler has spoken to the people only once since D-Day That was when he was brought to the microphone in the small hours of the morning to prove to the world that he had not been assassinated. He issued decrees appointing Himmler Commander-in-Chief of the Home Army and Goebbels as Trustee for Total Mobilisation. A fortnight later, he spoke in private to a meeting of political officers of the army, the chief theme still being his "Providential escape". That was on August 3. The rest is silence. Since then, for all outward signs, Hitler might have vanished into thin air.

Not only is Hitler playing no part in the mobilisation of the Reich for the final struggle, he is hardly mentioned by the new leaders. They issue their own orders and

their own appeals, with no or only most perfunctory references to the *Fuehrer's* existence. Goebbels, in his call to the Western Germans recently, mentioned Hitler once.

It is an intriguing change from the days when his name and genius were the theme of every speech, when the Germans were constantly being reminded that every order and every decision were his. But now there is a strange twilight over Hitler.

KING LEOPOLD TO BE HELD HOSTAGE.

NAZI PLAN TO ESCAPE WAR CRIMES.

(*From the Daily Mail*).

Germany is now openly threatening the Allies that she will hold as hostages famous people in her lands, such as King Leopold of Belgium and his children, King Christian of Denmark and General Bor against the threatened execution of German war-criminals.

The first hint of this diabolical plot was given by Reich Marshal Goering's newspaper *Essen National Zeitung*, which stated: "National Socialist leaders are about to organise counter-measures" against the trials of war-criminals which are forecast to take place after Germany's defeat. Among well-known Allied personages who are now prisoners in Germany, the most outstanding will be selected to serve as hostages. They will be taken to Japan, from where they will be exchanged with prominent Nazis captured by the Allies.

The Berlin correspondent of the Swedish daily newspaper *Morgon Tidningen* specifies that the captive Polish Commander in Warsaw, General Bor-Kommorviski, is designated as hostage, and will play an important part in Germany's plans in the near future. There was great joy in Berlin at his capture, as the Nazi leaders know they have treated the Poles worst of all the occupied peoples, and can expect the roughest treatment of all from the Polish side when the *Wehrmacht* ceases to function.

THE MIND OF HIMMLER.

"PERFECT INSTRUMENT OF TYRANNY".

(*From the Manchester Guardian*).

Of all the flamboyant personalities whom, to quote Voltaire, "the infuriated enthusiasm of the times" has placed at the head of Nazi Germany, that of Himmler is at once the most fascinating and most repulsive.

This little pale-faced school-master, with insignificant features and expressionless eyes, controls the lives and deaths of millions. He stands for no idea; he has no revolutionary ardour. He is the embodiment of ruthlessness, whose only satisfaction is the direct personal exercise of power and terror.

For the first time it is possible to see the workings of his mind in a speech long kept secret. His words are in keeping with his actions. Throughout this lengthy speech there is no pretence of evasion. Here one sees the morbid efficiency of the man—"Every day I have reported to me every attack, every murder, every assassination and every

crime that is committed in Europe"—and the pitiless cruelty—"That is why I am always in favour of punishing severely and mercilessly whenever necessary".

Though speaking to a conference of commanding officers in the German army, a group of men not usually accused of softness, he continually urges upon them the need for greater ruthlessness and brutality. "We must adjure and deny all false feelings of comradeship, misunderstood mercy, false softness and false excuses to ourselves".

Here is a character without parallel in history—the perfect instrument of tyranny.

DIRECTION OF GERMAN INDUSTRY.
PROBLEM BEFORE PEACE MAKERS.

(*From the Times.*)

The choice is not between a "hard" and "soft" peace—a misleading formulation of issue rightly rejected by Mr. Eden. The cold and severely practical question is not what kind of settlement may seem possible and equitable to-day, but what kind of settlement nations will be able and willing to maintain when the present events fall into the wider perspective of the future.

Makers of the coming peace are trustees not only for contemporaries, whose lives have been torn and distracted by a long tale of horror and human suffering, but for a generation yet unborn on whom the burden of upholding it may one day fall. That is the full measure of the responsibility.

The foundation of Britain's policy in Europe lies in an Anglo-Soviet alliance. This alliance is not merely a product of wartime emergency, but is deeply rooted in the European situation as it will emerge from the war. Britain and Russia stand at the western and eastern extremities of the Continent, which they have no ambition to dominate, but which is liable to threaten the security of both if they allow themselves to be divided; and a common European policy is an elementary necessity to both of them. Unless there is unity between them, restraint of Germany will in the long run be wholly impracticable, a fact of which German propaganda shows itself vividly aware.

Yet unity can be maintained only on the basis of positive and constructive policies. Punitive policies are in the nature of things temporary. The attention which they attract is apt to be out of all proportion to their ultimate value. Destruction too is a short-lived expedient and not an end in itself; nor can a large scale military occupation be indefinitely prolonged. The urgent task of the moment is for Great Britain, in consultation with her principal allies, to work out long-term policies which will limit and determine the future rôle of Germany in European Society.

These policies will have both their preventive and their constructive side. The first aim is to provide a firm and permanent guarantee against any renewal of German aggression. The second aim is to enable and oblige the Germans to make a constructive contribution to the rebuilding of Europe and to the maintenance of the economic well-being and stability of the European peoples. The two aims are interdependent. There can be no reconstruction without security. On the other hand, punishment and prevention without positive measures of construction will quickly break down.

The prevention of future German aggression depends primarily on the possession of power and on the will to use it—not to-morrow certainly or the next year, but perhaps in the next generation—and secondarily, on the establishment of effective controls and other instruments through which that power can be brought to bear when necessary. The immediate business of settlement after the war is to provide for and establish these indispensable instruments, and refrain from doing anything which might one day weaken the will to use them. The essential instruments are military and economic—strategic bases capable of being held with a rigid economy of man-power—and the strictest supervision and the most effective direction of German key-industries.

Beyond the task of prevention, and inseparably bound up with it, lies the task of rebuilding the economic system of Germany as an integral and necessary part of the European economic system. The supervision and direction of German industry, which are the right and indispensable guarantee of security, will be self-defeating unless they also carry with them a positive purpose. War-ravaged Europe can afford less than ever before to dispense with the contribution which German skill and German labour can make for her recovery. The notion recently mooted that the interests of Europe or the world would be served by the obliteration of Germany's productive capacity, and the return of the German people to primitive agriculture, may serve to express a legitimate indignation, but does not otherwise qualify for serious discussion. On the contrary, if only in the interest of Germany's neighbours and victims, German production must be raised to its highest point, modelled and organized on lines which will make it a useful constituent of organized European economy. The direction of German industry is a central responsibility which the principal Allied Powers will have to shoulder.

SEVEN SECRET GIANTS GUARDED LONDON.
FORTS ON STILTS ON THAMES.

(A. J. McWhinnie).

Three items of news bring to an end German dreams of blockading Britain.

The first, liberation of the French Channel ports. Their capture means more than merely the liberation of shell-torn Dover. The silencing of big guns at Calais and Cap Gris Nez also brings relief to scores of gallant little British coasters which have till now run the gauntlet. From those French ports they were attacked for four years by shells, E-boats and bombers. From them also mines were sown thickly in these narrow waters. But those little ships steam on now in peace.

The second, now disclosed, is the fact that Britain erected seven steel and concrete forts at strategic spots in the Thames estuary, to cope with minelaying and other attacks against London-bound shipping.

Hitler primarily attempted to blockade Britain by sinking ships in the Atlantic. But he also planned that such ships as escaped from U-boats should be blown up before they could get into port. Above all, Hitler desired to isolate London from the outside world by preventing ships entering the Thames river, and also to batter it to submission by bombs.

Minelaying aircraft and E-boats sowed magnetic and acoustic mines thickly every night in the Thames estuary. Berlin was confident that no London-bound ships would enter the port of London.

But elsewhere on the coast, steel and concrete forts, raised on stilts rising to 80 feet above the water, were being constructed in secret and designed for erection at strategic spots to shoot down *Luftwaffe* minelayers. Since these forts went into action, the Germans have not even attempted any serious mining of this vital waterway to London.

These seven giants guarding London are each manned by between 60 and 120 skilled naval and military personnel. Minelayers, which once had such successes in the Thames estuary, could not stand up to their devastating powers of detection and destruction.

But in addition to fighting aerial minelayers, these seven forts—the modern version of the Martello towers of the Napoleonic wars—have other tasks. They are manned and equipped to cope with any E-boats which might enter the Thames estuary, they shoot down bombers and flying-bombs, they have boats for air-sea rescue work and they maintain round-the-clock communications between the shore and ships entering the estuary. Their work is almost over.

The third news item ending the German dreams comes from the Germans themselves. In his determination to achieve U-boat successes once more, Admiral Doenitz, German Naval Commander-in-Chief, was experimenting with a device for enabling U-boats to re-charge their batteries while submerged. This, in theory, would dispense with surfacing, and was a plan to enable the U-boats to stage a great come-back. Now Captain Hansen, German naval correspondent, has tried to build up faith in the new device. U-boat men know the apparatus as "schnorkel" which, he says, makes it possible for the submarine to draw air into her diesels while running submerged, thereby not exposing the submarine to attack.

But in fact the device has failed. Schnorkel patrol brings weariness and overwhelming fatigue to U-boat men. But Captain Hansen dare not admit it. He says: "The recent successes of U-boats in the Channel must be attributed to this novel device."

What actually happened in the Channel when U-boats went out on their schnorkel patrol against liberating sea-borne forces in the Channel was this: During the first 24 hours of the operation, a quarter of a million Allied troops were landed in France with all their weapons and equipment. During the first 20 days, despite record bad weather, a million men were landed. With the possible exception of one ship, which may have been mined, not one of the thousands of Allied merchantships crossing and recrossing the Channel was sunk by a U-boat. Despite mines, coastal batteries, air-attacks, E-boats, U-boats and human torpedoes, only 15 small naval vessels were sunk. Not one was bigger than a destroyer.

On the other hand, no fewer than 17 U-boats were destroyed. I saw a number of German U-boat men who were rescued by British warships which sank their craft in the Channel. Those men are now in prisoner-of-war camps. They, at any rate, are no longer under any illusion about the claims for invention.

The schnorkel, in fact, is a failure. No device can enable the U-boats at this late stage to undertake a full-scale come-back. German dreams of blockading Britain on the oceans and in the narrow waters have, therefore, ended.

GREECE.

With the Allied landings on the Greek islands and mainland Greece has sprung into prominence on the Balkan front.

Greece has an area of about 50,000 sq. miles—slightly larger than Sind. It is generally mountainous and barren and is thinly populated. Greece can be divided into several natural regions—the Greek Islands, the Peloponnesus, Central and Northern Greece, and Greek Macedonia and Thrace.

Though the area under cultivation is only 17·7 per cent. of the whole territory, Greece is mostly an agricultural country. Cereals cover most of the fertile areas, cotton and rice being cultivated on a small scale. The production is not sufficient to feed the country, and Greece has to import food to live.

Greece is famous for her tobacco and currants. Vines, figs, oranges and other fruits are in plenty. There is little forest timber; it is a land of silvery olive trees, tamarisks, junipers and oleanders. In spring and early summer the air is sweet with the honey scent of wild flowers and the tinkle of sheep and goat bells.

All this beauty hides a harsh discipline of nature. A cold winter is followed by an almost rainless summer, and the noisy torrents dry to silence in their rocky beds.

There are a number of mineral deposits in the country, the chief being lignite, iron, iron pyrites, magnesite, chromite, lead and the famous marbles.

When Modern Greece came into being Athens was a small village. To-day it is the capital of the country and an important city. The landscape round the city is one of the loveliest in the world.

Its ocean setting—the "wine-dark sea" of Homer's poetry—has had profound influence on the life and character of the people, and is a part of its loveliness. The skies are brilliant, the mountains have sharp, fine outlines, the earth has a pinkish hue.

The struggle of Greece against the Axis began four years ago with the Italian invasion on October 28, 1940. The strength of Greek valour amazed the world and confounded the Italians: it was not to the Italians that Greece surrendered.

At dawn on April 6, 1941, the Germans crossed the Bulgarian frontier without warning, attacking the strip of Greek territory running east of Salonika to the Turkish frontier. The Greek resistance—heroic though it was—was overwhelmed. What was left by the British and Anzacs had to fight its way back to the sea. On April 27 the German forces entered Athens.

Britain was hard pressed in the spring of 1941, and all General Wavell's forces were badly needed for their great task in Africa. Yet an important part of the mobile portion of the Army of the Nile was sent to Greece, of which some half were men from Britain and the other half from Australia and New Zealand.

Unshaken by German savagery and by atrocious reprisals, untamed by the terrible lassitude of hunger, the Greeks continued their struggle. Intellectuals and university students, agricultural and industrial workers, civil servants and Government employees performed notable feats against the enemy.

FRONT LINE RADIO REPORTERS.

VOICES FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.

(by R. Makarius).

In the nineteen-thirties, during the Sino-Japanese fighting in Manchuria, American radio listeners one day received a shock. One of the great broadcasting companies suddenly interrupted a musical programme. Curiously dull, indefinable noises proceeded from the loudspeaker. The noise increased and then ceased abruptly.

Then a remote voice announced: "You have just heard the first direct transmission from a battlefield in the Far East." An American newspaper correspondent who had gone out with a short-wave transmitter set had carried out this remarkable technical experiment. The reaction of the public was interesting. It came mainly from pacifist circles, who protested furiously against "bringing the war acoustically into the house, instead of abolishing it."

Since this first tentative, broadcast radio reporting from the front has made extraordinary strides.

Nowadays, one can hardly imagine a battlefront without the radio-car. Since the assault on the Continent, its methods have improved astonishingly. At first, the transmission somewhat recalled the early days of the sound-film. Every noise could be heard; even the lightest footsteps sounded more like the tramping of a column on the march, and a gently closing door reverberated like a crash. In transmissions from the front, the endeavour to make the listener aware of the "third dimension" appeared to be paramount. The voices of the war correspondents only too frequently were drowned by the thunder of approaching aircraft, the bark of cannon and the clatter and stutter of machine-guns.

Certainly, there were cases when the "noises off" were more eloquent than the spoken word. This was particularly the case at the time when London, under the hail of German bombs, became virtually a front-line. At that time the American radio-reporters placed their microphones on the ground in the London streets, which were shuddering under the impact of the bombs. The people who listened, thousands of miles away, received a powerful sound picture of circling bombers, the crash of collapsing houses, sirens, the crackling of fires, the bells of fire-engines and ambulances rushing to the rescue. They could form some idea of the terror to which London was exposed night after night.

From the very beginning, the Germans developed front-reporting by radio on a grand scale. The reporters form part of the so-called "propaganda companies"; they are soldiers, therefore, who carry microphones as well as arms. It is these radio specialists' job not only themselves to broadcast from the battlefields, they must also bring as many representatives of the various fighting units as possible to the microphone.

In the winters of the Russian campaign, where the Germans had to suffer incredible hardships, and dull despair reigned in the icebound shelters, this gloomy atmosphere sometimes pervaded even the radio-reports. The reporters, whose voices usually have a harsh metallic sound, suddenly seemed to become human beings who seemed to have only the one desire, in spite of all military discipline, to shout their distress and that of their comrades to the outside world.

The Allied front-radio-reporters were properly trained for their task. Consequently, the martial side always dominated by far the human side. Successes were successes and setbacks were setbacks. There was no attempt to make it appear otherwise. Reporters

flew to Berlin with the bombers, and in plain words, without false heroics, recorded their impressions from the aircraft, told of the thousands of fires, searchlights and flares lighting up the sky above the capital of the Reich.

They followed General Montgomery's vanguard with their radio car, through the desert to Tripolitania and Tunisia. In the midst of sandstorms, they told of this glorious victorious march through Africa. The listener sometimes received momentary impressions which moved him to the core. What, later, he might see on the films, he could gather here from brief, artless allusions, sometimes only from undertones. He became aware instinctively of what it meant to fight in this land and to be victorious, and the significance of Mr. Churchill's words about 'blood, sweat and toil' became evident more than once in the moved tone of voice of the speaker.

Since the landing in Normandy, front-reporting forms a daily, indispensable part of the Allied radio programmes. The announcer takes the listeners from one sector of the front to the other. Everywhere the radio-reporters are ready; in the very forefront with the storming troops, with the tanks, the guns, on provisional airfields, with ambulances, in destroyers and merchant ships. One after another gives his personal account from wherever he happens to be—often breathlessly and in short, detached sentences, having only just come down by parachute and often profoundly stirred by tragic sights. But all of them are imbued with the certainty, gained from all they see on the spot, that whatever is happening is bringing the final victory ever nearer.

Evidently, these voices that are now part of this new symphony of war are frequently interrupted by the din of battle. But this clangour forms only the background, as it were. The outstanding impression is the vox humana, the dramatic power of personal impressions, related simply and without artifice. One of the most thrilling moments for radio-listeners occurred a few days after the landing in Normandy, when Schumann, the French radio-reporter, described General de Gaulle's arrival in Bayeux. Suddenly, his words were drowned by the ringing notes of the *Marseillaise*, sung by the crowds in the streets, for the first time for four years, on a liberated fraction of the soil of France.

SIGNS OF JAPANESE WEAKNESS.

INADEQUATE RESOURCES.

(From the New Statesman and Nation).

The long cascade which General Koiso poured out before the Japanese Diet on September 7 is probably the most interesting statement made by any Japanese statesman since Pearl Harbour.

It confirmed that the Government has become acutely conscious of the total inadequacy of the means and methods at its disposal. Koiso emphasised in this order: public morale, war industries, food supplies, man-power and home defence. With all of these he confessed himself openly dissatisfied.

Koiso stated plainly that Japanese fighting morale, both at the front and at home, is no longer what it was, and certainly not what it should be. This point is worth noting. One was inclined to think that the series of great defeats of the last twelve months might have done something to shake the Japanese conviction of her invincibility. Koiso now tells us that these months have indeed had their effect, that not only the soldiers are showing signs of losing heart but the home front is also growing restless. People are beginning to get tired and discouraged by war, and by the way in which they are governed. And the Government knows the reason.

"It is impossible to expect more determined fighting," says Koiso, "without the full expression of the will of the people". Hence the Government's astonishing decision to "keep the people fully informed, so as to intensify their sense of joint responsibility, and listen to the people's fair and just opinions." The reaction to this inside Japan must have been sharp. The Government's disregard of public opinion, and its totalitarian regimentation of public mind have obviously overreached themselves.

There is similar uneasiness in regard to man-power. The curious tribute to the fighting achievements of the army and navy units from Korea and Formosa, coupled with an even more curious reminder that "it is necessary to give full consideration to the treatment of these people," seems to indicate that Tokyo is beginning to rely more and more on the fighting contribution of the subject and annexed peoples, and that the treatment hitherto meted out to them by the Japanese *herrenvolk* presents unsatisfactory results.

Japan's war industries are showing, on Koiso's testimony, most disturbing bottlenecks. Apparently, at this late hour the introduction of new production methods is planned, to which the workers are slow to adapt themselves. Once again, Japan's flashy super-totalitarianism seems to stumble over the country's stubborn traditionalism, which it has itself done so much to foster. It is astonishing to hear at this juncture that "now is the time when people engaged in munitions production must rise to action;" and the closing down and suspension of all non-essential industrial establishments, announced by Koiso, comes very late in the day.

Japan's resources now enable her to achieve a steel output of some 11,000,000 to 14,000,000 tons annually from the inner zone. This, Koiso stated, is not nearly enough. But even more serious is Japan's shortage of shipbuilding capacity, especially when taken in conjunction with her obvious inability to provide effective air cover for her existing convoys. The 800,000 tons of steel shipping which Japan is at present able to produce, plus her timber shipbuilding, have long been unable to make good her losses. The production of "wooden ships" is being boosted with great energy everywhere, including the conquered Empire; and propaganda devoted to it actually resembles very much the aureole in which Goebbels at one time clothed the "secret weapon."

This crucial shipping shortage is no doubt partly responsible for dictating a policy by which the inner zone of the Japanese empire is receiving an ever-increasing amount of economic development.

Koiso is certainly very much alive to the danger of air-bombardment. "It is a matter of urgent necessity," he explains, "that the protection of important industrial establishments against air attacks should be further strengthened." New measures and regulations for extension of air-raid precautions and civil defence are announced, and the possibility of a physical invasion of the Japanese mainland is not being lost sight of. "It has become necessary to arm the entire nation." Already the effect of air bombardment against lengthy lines of communications on which Japanese forces depend is being most seriously felt, and the ability to blanket bases from the air has made the whole strategic conception of "by-pass" possible. When the attack on Japanese industry, already initiated from the air, grows to really great power, its effects may well be decisive.

Does Koiso seriously believe he can still pull it off? A mysterious sentence in his speech tucked away amidst a swarm of irrelevancies casts an odd light on his conviction.

"For our 100,000,000 people to take up their battle-stations for victory and to put forth their maximum effort means complete exhaustion of all human energy and the awaiting of divine help."

The meaning is clear.

WAR AGAINST INSECT PESTS.
PROGRESS OF MODERN RESEARCH.

(*Prof. A. M. Low*).

Insects are carriers and distributors of some of the world's most devastating diseases. The flea carries plague and other diseases; the louse carries typhus; the mosquito carries malaria; and the common fly carries a host of different illnesses. Once the part played by insect in carrying diseases has been recognised, man can take steps to avoid contact.

Modern methods and ideals of hygiene have done much to reduce insect-borne epidemics. But, especially in the tropics, complete exclusion or extermination of dangerous insects is an ideal never realised in practice. It is estimated that at least three million people yearly die from malaria, and the number of non-fatal cases is nearer one hundred millions.

There come times of upheaval when normal standards of hygiene cannot be observed. These periods immediately see an increase in pests, particularly the louse. Typhus epidemics break out and, in the past, have taken far greater toll in war than bullets or bayonets In World War II immense progress has been made in the war against insect pests.

It can now be stated that we are really nearing the time when we can look forward to the extermination of man's minute enemies in the insect world, as surely as the invention of gun-powder ensured his safety against wolves and other predatory animals.

The Allies have produced some remarkable inventions for dealing with pests, and have employed them on a very great scale in the field of operations. When with the coming of peace they can be applied to purely civilian needs, a house with flies, mosquitoes or fleas should be the exception.

Perhaps, the most important of the weapons will prove to be a substance whose long name of dichloro-diphenyl-trichlorethane is popularly shortened to D. D. T. This chemical is death to almost every kind of insect, except members of the Aphis family; yet it is absolutely harmless to man or domestic animals and is non-irritant to the skin. Its most striking characteristic is the period for which it remains lethal. A man wearing clothes, which have been impregnated with it is safe for at least two months, even though the clothes are washed in the meantime. A room treated with it remains toxic to flies and mosquitoes for periods of up to three months.

D. D. T. was discovered as long ago as 1874; but the inventor did not realise its possibilities. Just before the war it was "revived" by the famous Swiss chemical firm of Geigy, who applied it as a moth-killer and used it for attacking potato-beetles.

They drew the attention of the British and American Governments to it two years ago, and a great amount of research was carried out to establish the most effective methods of use and manufacture in large quantities required by a modern army. Methods were developed in Britain of impregnating clothing, so that the effect would not be lost on washing, yet no unpleasant odour would be perceptible. Every British soldier in France to-day wears shirts treated with D. D. T., and is free from the plague that armies endured since time immemorial.

Large-scale production came along just in time for D. D. T. to undergo its first big test at Naples during the last winter. Conditions in Italy inevitably produced typhus, and with the population debarred from proper sleeping places and huddled together for warmth, it seemed inevitable that plague would spread rapidly and prove most devastating. Winter has always been the great season for typhus, and it has never before been possible to check an opidemic until spring.

But supplies of D. D. T. which were flown to the Italian city destroyed the lice responsible in just one month. The number of cases began falling immediately, and as more and more thousands of populations were "dusted" the epidemic was ended and the danger of it spreading all over Europe avoided.

To-day, Allied medical experts look forward with confidence to tackling epidemics of typhus that will inevitably break out when Europe is liberated. For long, doctors have been searching for an effective typhus vaccine. But D. D. T. by destroying lice, without which typhus cannot be spread, is a very much more valuable remedy.

Another powerful weapon which is being developed in the war against insects is a gas, "freon", which hitherto has been used for refrigeration, because of the ease with which it becomes liquid under very modest pressure. Freon itself is not an insecticide, but forms an excellent solvent for insecticides, and the combination gives what is called an "aerosol", a spray of exceedingly finely divided particles, so light that they remain suspended in the air for a long time, being carried by convection to every part of the room or tent.

Freon is harmless to man when sprayed. The purpose of the liquid gas is to hold the insecticide in suspension, and to provide "force" for spraying it by its own rapid, evaporation when released from pressure. The liquid is driven through a very fine nozzle under great pressure producing the required minute droplets.

The actual apparatus now used largely with pyrethrin as an insecticide in the war on mosquitoes, consists of a small container, from which about 250 charges can be "fired" by simply opening a valve momentarily. One charge is sufficient to kill all the mosquitoes in a small tent. Four or five will make an aircraft cabin insect-free.

The container is carried by soldiers in the tropics as part of their ordinary kit. It can also be used, of course, for spraying ponds and pools which are breeding places of mosquitoes, being more effective than oil. It is safe to forecast that after the war all passenger and freight aircraft, operating in the tropics, will be sprayed as a matter of routine to avoid mosquitoes being carried from one place to another.

The device opens up new possibilities in producing mosquito-free houses, and will make life in the tropics much more healthy. Aerosols can be used with other insecticides. They have been developed for treating garden plants or trees, and for spraying domestic animals which may be insect carriers. New insecticides and new methods have set up quite high standards for the thorough destruction of insect pests.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

(10) FARMER AND FARMING.

By Michael Brown.

(From the Illustrated Weekly of India).

In making plans for India's future, attention has been fairly evenly divided between he enthusiasts for industry, who believe that the setting up of large numbers of factories

will turn the country into another El Dorado, and those who think that since most Indians live in the villages, are responsible for the country's food supply and are desperately poor, agriculture should have first claim. Events in the past two years have proved how near the edge of the abyss India has been; that there is a grave national danger in the backwardness of the countryside.

It is therefore natural that Delhi's planners should devote considerable attention to the development of farming, the result being the recent publication of a plan costing Rs. 1,000 crores and taking 15 years to complete. The cost of maintaining such an improved state of affairs will be Rs. 20 crores a year, or nine annas an acre for all the land likely to be under cultivation at the end of the development period.

The figures are admitted to be "guestimates", but they give some idea of the size of the changes which the planners propose to bring about.

However, it is all very well to work out plans and publish statistics; what about the individual farmer? Certain broad developments are already obvious. If present proposal are carried through, the Indian farmer and his family will be much more prosperous than they are to-day. They will not be underfed (as so many of them have been), their debts will be much smaller, or will have ceased to exist (in some parts of India, the war boom has already taken care of that), they will be no longer illiterate, out of contact with the rest of the world and liable to be ruined by any passing epidemic of human or animal disease.

BETTER METHODS.

We have already dealt generally with the improvements aimed at in feeding, housing clothing and educating the whole country. The man who tills the land will of course have his share of these. In addition, he and his sons will be able to obtain training in improved methods of farming, which will enable them to do their work more efficiently and thus get more out of their fields. So much for the personal aspect.

What improvements can we except to find in the fields? One of the most noticeable will undoubtedly be irrigation. This does not necessarily mean that great dams, reservoirs and miles of canals will be plastered all over the country. There will be a great deal more canal irrigation, but if the planners have their way, the fullest possible use will also be made of local water supplies. There will be better and more numerous wells. In many cases these will be operated by motor driven pumps. Where possible electric power will be used to work the pumps; elsewhere petrol or oil will be used. Where rivers run between deep banks, leaving the surrounding countryside high and dry, water lifts will be used to feed canals to the fields. In monsoon areas every effort will be made to store extra water by turning nullahs into reservoirs, deepening existing tanks and adding new ones.

On the other hand, in certain other areas, notably in parts of Bihar, Bengal and the Punjab, more pumps will be hard at work, draining water-logged land.

There need be no apology for putting the emphasis on irrigation, because without water, large tracts cannot be cultivated, farmers cannot be protected against the monsoon's irregularities and in many places two crops cannot be grown in a year.

This point about irrigation in monsoon areas is important. So far these regions have been neglected by the irrigation experts, because they considered that the cultivator was quite content with what water the average monsoon gave him. So he was—and is—either because he has not seen the improvement extra water can make to his crop or because he considers his land is not fertile enough to stand the amount of cropping possible when water is plentiful.

MANURE.

We now come to the next point: Manure. It is hoped that within the lifetime of most of us village walls will cease to be plastered with dung-cakes drying in the sun. Instead, if another plan proves practicable, farmers' wives will do their cooking over wood or charcoal fires, while their husbands put the farmyard manure back on to the land.

It is also likely that in the village godowns we shall find bags of artificial fertilisers like sulphate of ammonia. Between them, water and natural and artificial manures will make the biggest visible changes to India's countryside. Crops will look bigger and better, fields will be bare for fewer months in the year, and, even more important, the great stretches of fallow to be found around every village will disappear. The reason is that with manure and a scientific rotation of crops there will be no need for the land to be left fallow so that it may recover from bearing the last crop.

The farmer will therefore be a busier man. In areas where he cultivates his land once, he will be able to cultivate it twice a year, and instead of being able to use only part of his holding each time, he can use the lot.

But please do not imagine that this is merely a too-good-to-be-true story. A great deal has been said for and against the Indian farmer, but no one will claim that he believes in doing more hard work than necessary. That attitude is most understandable, especially when extra labour does not appear to bring any appreciably increased return.

MORE ODD JOBS.

On the other hand, if the farmer is to cultivate all his land and do it more often he and his family will have more work to do.

If small boys and girls have to go to school instead of minding the cattle, there will be additional jobs like maintaining adequate fences. If the best is to be got out of the land there will be no room for weeds, insect pests and so on. The farmer and his family and labourers will need to do that work too.

Will he do it? The answer, as matters stand at present, is probably "No". He will object mainly because of ignorance, and partly because of laziness. Much of his opposition can be overcome by persuasion and example. For this purpose, the Rs. 1,000 crore Plan suggests Village Guides.

Concerning the Guide, the Plan says: "Preferably, he should be an active member of his own community who, while cultivating his own land, could give part-time service to act as a link between the technical experts and the cultivators in his village. Initially, he would receive practical instruction of a few months' duration at departmental centres in the various improved agricultural and animal husbandry practices applicable to his village conditions, and would duly himself introduce them and get others to do so. He would act as the departmental correspondent for his village. He would be kept posted regarding all the latest useful discoveries, up-to-date information and literature. He would arrange with the departmental staff for the supply, through the village Co-operative or other organisation, of the seeds, manures, insecticides and other needs of his village. For his services, he would receive an honorarium of Rs. 200 per annum.

If the Village Guide proves effective there is no doubt that by degrees the rest of the village will follow his example. But what about the die-hards; the tiresome people whose fields provide weed seeds for the rest of the countryside, who insist on planting an unwanted crop, and so on?

Well, it is not unlikely that something will be done to make them see the error of their ways. All planners would prefer to persuade the farmers to progress, and indeed

most of them will be only too willing to do so. But undoubtedly there will be some forms of compulsion—not to deprive a man of initiative but to prevent the sluggard making a nuisance of himself to the rest of the community. No doubt strong village panchayats would prove very useful in this respect.

Under such conditions, it will be hardly surprising if farmers welcome the introduction of machinery to help them do their work more quickly and with less physical effort.

MACHINERY AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The bogey of farming machinery causing village unemployment has been raised. It is hardly a serious one.

As Dr. W Burns has said, mechinisation means fewer men per operation but not per acre Scientific agriculture includes a large number of operations which the average Indian farmer ignores.

Another change which will be apparent under better farming conditions will be the greater variety of crops to be seen in the countryside. This is apparent the Rs. 1,000 crore Plan which aims at an increase of 10 per cent. in cereals; 20 per cent. in pulses; 20 per cent. in fats and oils; 20 per cent. in fruit; 100 per cent. in vegetables and 300 per cent in milk.

The last increase is particularly significant. Not only shall we need better cattle, but we shall have to feed them better. That may mean growing special fodder crops instead of leaving the animals to roam in the jungle. We may also have that development, almost unknown in present day India, the cultivated pasture.

AVERTING A GLUT.

Even supposing the farmer is given the facilities—and induced to use them—to improve the output of his land, we shall not have ensured that he will be more prosperous. India's villagers know only too well the disastrous effects of a glut.

Of course, it can be argued that if everyone can afford to buy an adequate amount of food there will be no risk of supply ever exceeding amount.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to make the farmer see this before it happens. It is also difficult to ensure that the better informed middleman does not take unjust advantage of the situation.

The problem is to start the process of ensuring the producer a satisfactory price, while making his produce cheap enough for all to buy. The most obvious way of doing this is to reduce the profit margin for the middlemen, and there is little doubt that this can be done by co-operative selling and regulated markets. Once again compulsion may be necessary, to prevent stupid members of the community providing a loophole for unwanted middlemen, whose methods of breaking up co-operation are only too well known.

There is also the possibility of food being subsidised, by supplying the farmer with fertilisers, manures, seeds, implements, water, etc., at specially low rates, so that his production cost is reduced.

Many other factors must be taken into account. Better seeds, better implements, protection of crops and animals from pests and disease, more information about improved methods, co-operative use of such machinery as tractors for ploughing and threshing machine, etc. These are all part of the future farmer's life in India. They are not impossible dreams, and indeed the sooner the farmer learns to want them the sooner they will come to pass.

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,,	Kilakkurichchi	... 7.30 ,,
23-10-44	Perumanadu	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Pulvayal	... 7.30 ,,
24-10-44	Sadayampatti	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Oliyamangalam	... 7.30 ,,
25-10-44	College A English	... 11.00 a.m.
,,	College B Tamil	... 11.00 ,,
25-10-44	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a.m.
,,	Rani's High School	... 10.45 ,,
,,	Kilanilai-Puduppatti	.. 7.00 p.m.
,,	Kilanilai	... 7.30 ,,
26-10-44	Malampatti	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Perambur	... 7.30 ,,
27-10-44	P. Puduppatti	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Vendampatti	... 7.30 ,,

LECTURE CCXXI (*Batch 1*).

28-10-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.
29-10-44	Kiranur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Nanjur	... 7.30 ,,
30-10-44	Kudumiyamalai	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Parambur	... 7.30 ,,
31-10-44	Perungalur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Adanakkottai	... 7.30 ,,
1-11-44	College A English	... 11.00 a.m.
,,	College B Tamil	... 11.00 ,,
1-11-44	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a.m.
,,	Rani's High School	... 10.45 ,,
2-11-44	Pungudi	... 7.00 p.m.
,,	Satyamangalam	... 7.30 ,,
3-11-44	Mirattunilai	... 7.00 ,,
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